



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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NORTH TEXAS SIBLINGS ADMIT TO CAUSING PLANO STUDENT'S DEATH

(Sherman, Texas) Two sets of north Texas siblings have pleaded guilty in federal court in connection with the drug death of a 16-year-old Plano student. **ANGEL SIERRA**, 29, of Dallas, pleaded guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge Don Bush to conspiring to distribute heroin which resulted in the death of an individual from the use of such substance. **NATHANIEL EDWARD GONZALEZ**, 20 of Plano, pleaded guilty yesterday to the same charges.

According to information presented in court, Gonzalez was obtaining various amounts of heroin from Angel Sierra for distribution in the Plano area. On May 10, 2005, Gonzalez sold heroin to two Plano juveniles resulting in the overdose and death of one of them on May 11, 2005. During the Plano Police Department's investigation of the student's death, a connection was made linking the drug transaction to the targets of an eight month undercover investigation by the ATF Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force in Dallas.

Angel Sierra's 27-year-old brother, **ALBERTO SIERRA** of Dallas, also pleaded guilty yesterday to distributing more than 100 grams of heroin, for his role in delivering heroin to his brother's other customers. Alberto Sierra faces up to 40 years in federal prison.

Gonzalez' 18-year-old sister, **MELANIE DANIELLE CAPLE** of Richardson, pleaded guilty yesterday to a misprision of a felony for driving Gonzalez to deliver the heroin to the Plano juveniles. She faces up to three years in federal prison.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, commended the investigators for their cooperative efforts, "These officers and agents are fighting a daily battle to prevent another senseless heroin death. We will continue to investigate and aggressively prosecute drug violations in the Eastern District of Texas, treating each one as a potential threat to our children."

Greg Rushin, Chief of the Plano Police Department echoed Orwig's sentiments, "These pleas are an excellent example of the results that can be obtained when local and federal law enforcement agencies, along with federal prosecutors, work together on drug enforcement cases. Drug dealers do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, so cooperative efforts are imperative to investigate and prosecute these criminals so we can work toward keeping our communities safe."

Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas DEA Field Division, Gary G. Olenkiewicz also said, "Arrests and aggressive prosecution will continue as long as the traffickers of heroin continue to poison our citizens and cause deaths within our communities. We will continue to pool our resources to effectively and efficiently disrupt and dismantle these criminal organizations."

ATF Special Agent in Charge Ronnie Carter also pledged his agency's continued support, "The time and cooperative effort exerted in this investigation illustrates ATF's commitment to making our streets and community safer".

ATF Special Agent James Ruffin was pleased with the progression of the PSN undercover investigation, "Over 595 grams of black tar heroin was purchased by undercover agents and officers during our investigation." Ruffin also added, "Not only were we able to link the Sierra brothers to this case, but we have arrested two additional suspects and two more are currently at large in our ongoing black tar heroin investigation."

Upon sentencing, Angel Sierra and Gonzalez each face up to life in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

The case is being investigated by the Plano Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Dallas Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracey Batson.